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Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

EXDIS

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04650 011446Z

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ACTION SS 70

INFO /070 W

R 011000Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5945
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4036
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2355
AMCONSUL DANANG 851

S E C R E T NOFORN SAIGON 4650

LIMDIS

CINPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: BAC LIEU ON ELECTION EVE

1. SUPPORTERS OF CIVILIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN BAC LIEU CONTINUE TO ALLEGE THAT GVN OFFICIALS ARE UNFAIRLY SUPPORTING THIEU-KY. ALTHOUGH "SUPPORT" IS NOT DEFINED, AND CHARGES ARE DIFFICULT TO PIN DOWN, ALLEGATIONS MAY HAVE SOME BASIS IN FACT. VIS CHIEF HAS TOLD AMERICAN ADVISOR THAT HE HAS BEEN ORDERED

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 4650 S E C R E T
TO "SUPPORT" THIEU-KY TICKET, AND REPORTS CIRCULATE THAT COMMANDER OF LOCAL ARVN PSYWAR COMPANY AND SECTOR CIVIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HAVE SAID THE SAME THING. [redacted] THAT PROVINCE POLICE CHIEF HAS SAID THAT THE PROVINCE CHIEF IS ACTIVELY SUPPORTING MILITARY TICKET.

2. THIEU-KY TICKET HASPICKED UP CATHOLIC SUPPORT IN PROVINCE.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Diane Zeuberg DATE 10/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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PRIEST [redacted] WHO TOLD EMBOFF TWO WEEKS AGO THAT BOTH THIEU AND KY ARE CORRUPT AND INCOMPETENT AND ONLY TRAN VAN HUONG COULD SAVE THE COUNTRY, NOW SAYS HE SUPPORTS GVN SLATE AND WILL URGE HIS PARISHONERS TO DO SO TOO. HE SAYS REASON FOR SWITCH IS THAT HE SAW MAI THO TRUYEN ON TELEVISION AND HEARD HIM SAY THAT VIET-NAM MUST HAVE PEACE IMMEDIATELY AT ANY COST. THIS, PRIEST MAINTAINS, CONVINCED HIM THAT ONLY THIEU AND KY CAN PROSECUTE WAR TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

3. COMMENT: WITH HEADQUARTERS OF 21ST ARVN DIVISION AND LARGE CAVTODIAN MINORITY IN PROVINCE PLUS ADVANTAGE OF BEING BEST-KNOW PUBLIC FIGURES, THIEU-KY SLATE WILL RUN WELL IN BAC LIEU. WE HAVE HEAD OF NO SUCH STATEMENT BY MAI THO TRUYEN. PRIEST IS CLOSE TO PROVINCE CHIEF AND IT MAY BE HIS INFLUENCE WHICH HAS BEEN REAL CAUSE OF SHIFT.
BUNKER